

WELTON ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND

PRIMARY ACADEMY

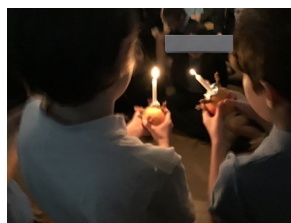
December 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

What an exciting time we have had in school on the run up to Christmas with many of our activities being shared with family and friends.

Yet again, one of our highlights of the year was our Christingle Service. Watching our Year 6 children create a circle of light around our school is a joy to see and the 'wows' from our younger children is amazing- a very special time. Parents joined their children in school making the Christingles; it was great to see so many families working together. This year we were able to welcome parents of Year 6 children to the service. Thank you to Rev Lynne for leading our service.



Our Lower school reminded us all about the Christmas story. Not only did they perform 3 times to family, but they also performed to preschools and to the rest of our school. As always, the children were incredible. It is not easy to perform in front of an audience, but they all did it with joy, real confidence and energy. Their families were given the most incredible gifts – gifts that cannot be bought- love, happiness and time.

We have again shared our Christmas celebrations with our wider community this year. Our choir was invited to sing at the switching on of Welton's Christmas Tree lights and at the Doctor/ Patient Christmas dinner and were part of a church school's carol service at Lincoln Cathedral. All of these were very special times for our children.

It was lovely seeing everyone at our Carols on the Playground. Another opportunity for us to hear the Christmas story, have a time of reflection and to enjoy time together as a school family.

A massive thank you to our School Friends for all they do for our school during the year. It is a busy time for the committee on the run up to Christmas. They organised another really successful Christmas shop so the children could buy gifts for family members. Thank you also to all the parents who helped on the day, making it such an amazing experience for our children. They love being able to choose gifts themselves and take them home, wrapped, ready to give on Christmas Day. We hope you enjoy what the children have chosen. Thank you also to the School Friends for providing refreshments after the Carols on the Playground and another opportunity for the children to buy any last minute gifts.



We had a delicious Christmas dinner - this is always a highlight of the year. Thank you to the midday team who decorated the tables and to other members of our staff team who helped to serve, making this lunchtime a very special for the children.



Our children and staff have been so busy this term, it was lovely to be able to spend a bit of quiet time in church enjoying our Christmas service. It was a time to stop, reflect and think about the true meaning of Christmas.

Thankyou to all our families for your support throughout this term. We have had such a great term.

From everyone at Welton St Mary's, we wish you all a happy Christmas filled with joy, love and peace. We are looking forward to 2025 , hoping that it is filled with hope and happiness.

We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 6th January.

Happy Christmas everyone

Best wishes

Mrs Gough

A Christmas message from the Bishop of Lincoln

Please find below a link for the Christmas message from The Rt Revd Stephen Conway, Bishop of Lincoln

[Christmas 2024 - Welton St Mary's Academy](#)

The ABC Checklist - Online Safety

With Christmas just around the corner, the holiday period is a great time to take stock of the devices they have (plus any new Xmas devices) and ensure they are set up correctly with any parental features you feel are appropriate for your child.

One frustrating issue is that the available features and how you set devices up differ, so to help parents Internet Matters have really good, non-techie guides which you can follow as part of their ABC Checklist. ABC stands for:

A - Activate parental controls.

B - Balance screen time.

C - Check and chat.

You can find a full explanation, set up guides and advice [HERE](#)

Please complete the online safety survey that has been sent out to you via Parentmail. This will help us with our planning of workshops.





Christmas Presence

We have an idea of Christmas (peace, chill, relax, sleep), and then the actual reality of the thing (buying, wrapping, making, visiting).

At its core, Christmas is about connection. Connection with friends, family and – often overlooked – connection with the present moment.

That last one is elusive. 'Right now' is such a slippery customer!

We might be sitting at the table tucking into our turkey but mentally we are already worrying about the next thing that needs doing. We might be watching our children dive into their prezies but our minds are on a work email that came in the day before. At a family party, we might find ourselves peeping at our phones checking what other people are doing instead of checking in with the people in front of us.

The most important choice we have is what we give our attention to. It is our most prized resource.

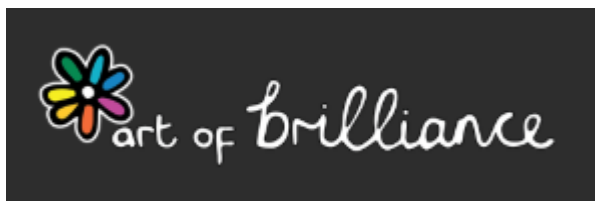
Being completely present costs nothing but means everything. It means being in the room, not just physically but mentally and emotionally as well. It means bringing your WHOLE self to the moment. It means putting your phone away, turning off your mental checklist, and tuning in to those in front of you. It means existing in the moment instead of dwelling on the past or worrying about the future.

Because, plot spoiler: Now is happening NOW!

My top tip is to be intentionally present this Christmas. Instead of rushing through the festivities, savour the moments. Be there, fully. Be present in your presence.

So, however you celebrate this Christmas, give yourself and your loved ones the greatest gift of all: your presence.

From The Art of Brilliance



[Home - Art of Brilliance](#)





Easy Fundraising

Did you know that Welton St Mary's C of E Primary Academy is registered with **easyfundraising** and you could help us to raise funds for our school at no extra cost to yourself?

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up, this last year you have already helped us to raise an amazing £846!

It is quick and easy to sign up, then you can begin using the easyfundraising website or app straightaway and raise FREE donations for our school and pupils. Every penny will make a real difference.

Please take a minute to visit our easyfundraising page to get started:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/welton-st-marys-c-of-e-primary-academy>

Children in Need

A huge thank you to everyone that generously donated to Children in Need.

With your help we raised a fantastic **£484.50**



Carols by Candlelight

Traditional Carol Services
with readings and Carols

Sunday 22 December:

4pm at St Germain's Church,
Scothern

6pm at St Chad's Church,
Dunholme

6pm at St Mary's Church,
Welton

Come follow the star and
let's celebrate Christmas
together at our special
services!

Everyone is welcome!

Christmas Day Service

10.30am St Mary's
Church, Welton.



For more information call
01673 565022 or
07468149695

www.weltondunholmescothernchurches.com

Christmas Eve:

All Age Nativity/Crib Services.

4pm St Chad's Church,
Dunholme.

4pm St Mary's Church, Welton.
Please dress up as your favourite
Nativity character!

Midnight Communion:

11.15pm at St Chad's Church,
Dunholme

11.15pm at St Mary's Church,
Welton

11.15pm at St Germain's Church,
Scothern

Stay up late and welcome in
Christmas



Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Everyone in society has a responsibility to protect and safeguard children from abuse and neglect.

999

If you or your children are in immediate danger you should always call 999. If it is not safe to speak use the “silent solution”. Press 5 5 when prompted and this will tell us that you need us.

Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP)

If you believe that a child may be a victim of neglect, abuse or cruelty call the customer service centre:
Children's safeguarding - **01522 782111** (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)
or **01522 782333** (outside office hours)

NSPCC

Talk to the NSPCC for advice and support about a child, or to report a concern. It's free and you don't have to say who you are. Please call us on **0800 800 5000** or visit <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Edan Lincs/LDASS

Domestic abuse service supporting men, women and children. Please call **01522 510041** or email info@ldass.org.uk

The Samaritans

If you need someone to talk to, we are here to listen. Please call **116 123** or visit <https://www.samaritans.org/>
Childline. Childline is here to help anyone under the age of 19. If you need to talk to a trained counsellor about anything, please call **0800 1111**

Operation Encompass

We are an **Operation Encompass School**, part of a national scheme that runs jointly between all schools and the police. Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced, any domestic abuse.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school's staff (*the Designated Safeguarding Lead*), is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have recently experienced a domestic abuse incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved. This information shared with the school is already covered in the schools' existing privacy notice. For further information in relation to how personal data in relation to yourself and your child(ren) is processed, please refer to Lincolnshire Police's privacy notice, which can be found on their website:

<https://www.lincs.police.uk/resource-library/data-protection/privacy-notice/>



Seasonal Illnesses and Keeping Healthy

As expected in the winter months, seasonal illnesses are circulating. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published [advice](#) on how to reduce the spread of seasonal illness and we would like to support you with a few tips to ensure your child is still able to access the schooling they are entitled to.



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As a school, we would like to see 95% attendance in line with the Local Authority expectations. There is a noticeable increase in absence when the weather is cold or wet. This is not a good enough reason to keep your child at home. We have had far too many late children so far this year and we need to reduce this to ensure that their education does not suffer. The School gates open at 8.45am, using the one-way system, children can be dropped at their classrooms from 8.50am. Registration is at 9.00am. Children arriving after 9.00am are required to come into school via the school office. This is so we can mark them as being present in the building and ensure that they are accounted for in the event of an emergency.

Children should attend school every day unless they really are too ill. If they are ill, please take them to the doctor's and bring in proof if you can. Try and arrange any appointments outside of school hours. If children are unwell in school then we will call parents and ask them to bring medication in the first instance. If they do not improve, we then may send children home. Please ensure we have your up to date phone numbers to ensure that we can reach you if needed.

For further information on some of the most common conditions and illnesses, parents can refer to NHS [guidance](#) to know when a child is too ill for school. Pupils should not miss school on a precautionary basis and can normally attend school with a cough or cold, unless they have a fever or diarrhoea and vomiting.





Tips for keeping healthy:

Teach children good hand washing habits and make sure they are washing their hands often. Make hand sanitiser available and use it when you are on the go.

- Wet your hands with clean water.
- Lather palms, fingers, nails and backs of your hands with soap.
- Scrub for at least 20 seconds.
- Rinse your hands with clean water.
- Dry your hands thoroughly with a clean paper towel

2. Use proper technique when sneezing or coughing. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your elbow when you sneeze.

3. Teach your children to give personal space to other children who are sick. This doesn't mean to ignore them, but to avoid body contact and minimize handling items the sick child has been using, such as toys, books or markers.

4. Get plenty of exercise. Exercise boosts the immune system and helps our bodies



For information on our attendance policy please visit [Policies - Welton St Mary's Academy](#)

[Policies - Welton St Mary's Academy](#)



December 2024

Dear Pupils & Staff

On behalf of Welton Larder, we would like to thank you for your valuable food and financial contributions over this past year. They have helped us provide food parcels to local families and individuals. Your support has made a difference to the daily lives of people who find themselves in strained circumstances. In addition, we have been able to give each of our beneficiaries a lovely Christmas hamper and some vouchers.

We have had a very busy year, and with a wonderful team of happy volunteers we have also been able to provide support and friendship for those who come to our weekly drop-in-centre at St Mary's Church in Welton. Having a regular place to meet has meant that we can provide:

- A warm place for friendship, company, light refreshments
- A community drop in for the foodbank and activities
- A sacred space for refreshment of body, mind and spirit

Wishing you all a joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Blessings from the team at Welton Larder.

Food, Refreshments. Friendship. Support. Everyone Welcome
People worse off than me? We help them too. Get help now. Don't wait.
Every Thursday 11.00am – 3.00pm
Contact 0794 616 6210

